

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5786
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Illiteracy among People with Disabilities (PwD)
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the majority of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in the country are illiterate and if so the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that they reportedly remain illiterate mainly because of lack of support services survey and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that for each category of disability, a greater proportion of women in it are illiterate than men and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme to ensure availability of minimum support such as accommodation, assistive devices, education and transport for disabled children to complete their schooling and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) & (b) As per Census 2011, the literacy rate among the persons with disabilities is 54.5 per cent against the national literacy rate of 72.98 per cent of all categories of persons. The literacy rates among different types of disabilities are varying. The literacy rate in persons with visual disability is 52.8 per cent, in hearing disability is 56.9 per cent, in speech disability is 58.3 per cent, in movement disability is 60.2 per cent, in mental retardation is 41.3 per cent, in any other disability is 60.0 per cent and in multiple disability is 33.3 per cent.

(c) Yes madam. A statement indicating gender-wise literacy rates in persons with different disabilities is at Annexure.

(d) The Government is implementing schemes to cater to the diverse needs of the differently-abled children at elementary and secondary level of education through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) respectively, whereby inclusive education is extended to children with special needs (CWSN).

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) promotes inclusion of CWSN in neighbourhood schools through their early identification, educational placement, provision of aids and appliances and other resource support services, teacher training, parental training, community mobilisation, curricular adaptations, removal of architectural barriers, as well as residential, non residential or even home based education, as per their specific requirements.

SSA provides Rs. 3000/- per child per annum for the interventions related to education of CWSN, including identification, functional and formal assessment, appropriate educational placement, provision of free aids and appliances, transport and/or escort support, teacher training, appointment of resource teachers, therapeutical support and barrier free access. As per Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), 2015-16, 20.56 lakh CWSN are enrolled at elementary level of schooling. Transport and escort facilities are provided to CWSN under the programme to facilitate their access to a neighbourhood school. Under the SSA, 1.94 lakh CWSN and 1.70 lakh CWSN were provided transport support and escort support respectively during 2015-16.

The National Council of Educational Research & Training has developed exemplar materials for primary and upper primary level teachers on curricular adaptations, inclusive teaching and how to adopt flexibility in evaluation for children with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. These handbooks cover all disabilities, including cognitive and intellectual disabilities, and have been disseminated to all States and UTs.

Under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, the component Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) covers all children passing out of elementary school and studying at the secondary stage in Government, local body and Government-aided schools, with one or more disabilities as defined under the Persons with Disabilities Act (1995).

The scheme has provision for Student-oriented components which cover Assessment of medical/ educational needs, Provision of student specific facilities like transport facilities, hostel facilities, books, uniforms, assistive devices, therapeutic service, support services, development of learning material, Purchase of screen reading software. Under the scheme, a financial assistance of Rs. 3000/- per annum per disabled child is provided for student oriented components as per applicable funding pattern between Centre and State.
